

success, passed in splendid procession before the soul, a gilded vision of gorgeous unrealities. It looks as if each one for himself must prove the vanity of temporal things, the futility of earthly hopes, the mockery of mundane consolations, before he will turn longingly to God, and seek, as a weary child his mother, the comfort of the everlasting arms. "As a mother comforteth her child, so will I comfort thee." How like sweet balm to the tired heart is this beautiful promise. As long as mother lives there is one friend in the world who can comfort us as no other; but when she passes away, well may we exclaim: "Whom have I on earth beside thee?" When we think of God we ought often to think of him in the sweet, pure, beautiful light of the mother love. Theoretically and theologically we know about God's love, and yet we do not know it. The world, and this veil of flesh, and all the painful and inexplicable tragedy of sin hides that love from our understanding. But if we could realize that love as it is, we would be overwhelmed with every excess of joy, we would know what it is to be comforted, we would be effectually armed against all the rough, cruel usage of the world, its scorn, its selfishness, its cynical betrayals, the snare of its hypocrisies and the stab of its treachery. The world breaks the heart, but Jesus heals that broken heart, and those who have had that sorrowful wound so tenderly and sweetly healed by the touch of that unseen hand know in the depths of their souls that there is no love like the love of Jesus, and no consolation like that which sheds its blessed benediction of deep peace, making the desert of our desolation to blossom like the rose.

#### Announcement

*Cheering Words* is out with a new name and a new dress. Announcement and full particulars next week.

### Brief Notes

Loud professions are often like thunder on a cloudy day; much noise in a rather dim light.

Terrestrial bodies give light by reflection. A little more reflection in both pulpit and pew would sensibly tend to relieve the universal dimness somewhat.

If you wish as much as possible to avoid the troubles of life, cease to expect them. A habit of mental and spiritual superiority to trouble is the proof armor of a wise man.

Yale University asks two millions of dollars from its alumni to celebrate its second centennial. We ask a much smaller sum for Ashland College in order that it may have a centennial to celebrate.

What is known among civil engineers as a "false bridge" broke down recently, in a neighboring State, killing four men and crippling others. There are such things as false bridges in morals and religion. Better not walk on them is our advice.

The private letter box system which prevails in some of our large cities seems to be a sort of back door for wickedness. We are glad to see that the New York postmaster is taking steps to suppress them. All covert transactions, and systems which

flourish best under the badge of secrecy, should be objects of suspicion to honest men.

If better living were as earnestly sought after as "a good living," there would not be so many "bad liver" in the world.

Application of the sermon to the people generally depends upon application of the preacher to the sermon.

The President has just proclaimed officially the re-establishment of peace between Spain and the United States. It is a peace however which brings in its train a very troublesome war, and the end is not yet.

The Chinese trap tigers by using mirrors. The tiger sees his image in the glass, and curiosity does the rest. What strange psychological resemblances are observed between some animals and some people.

Perhaps if we really wish to be blessed, it would be a good idea to make room for it. The best friend you have in the world could not enter your house if it was crammed to the door with other things. Particularly if it was filled with his enemies.

Taouism is a Chinese philosophy which teaches that to be happy, one must abandon thought and knowledge. That leaves merely the sense of physical satisfaction, a full stomach, the joy of a well fed pig. Perhaps one of the greatest blessings of knowledge is that it brings unrest. Realizing a higher life than the physical, we become dissatisfied with the latter, anxious and troubled at the dominance which it exercises over us. Better the unrest of knowledge than the stolid satisfaction of animalism.

The Industrial Commission appointed to investigate the trusts has a unique opportunity to do the country a signal service, but a report very much inimical to the trusts, or legislation which will annoy them seriously, is hardly to be expected. The said trusts have some very weighty arguments at their service.

The steamer Kairos from New Orleans to Glasgow was given up for lost, but turns up in tow of another steamer. She was disabled in mid ocean. Life craft on the sea of time, often disabled in mid ocean, should not however be given up for lost as long as there is hope that some Samaritan vessel will finally bring them into port. Do not too easily despair of sinners.

The German Kaiser orders the arrest of a blasphemous editor and the suppression of his paper. "A rod for the back of fools" was Solomon's plan, and the present utility of it lies in the fact that fools will learn by no other method. We are not among those who believe that society should tamely submit to be rooted about by every dirty nose.

The Sultan of Turkey proposes to annex an Armenian graveyard to his palace grounds. He appears to have a fondness for Armenian graveyards, judging by the number and extent of those which he has been directly instrumental in making. The blood of a hundred thousand of these Christians which he has shed cries out to heaven against him, and he will be done with palaces and palace grounds when the judgment comes.

A miniature of London will be exhibited at the coming Paris exposition. We ought to have miniatures of the New Jerusalem on exhibition in all those fraternal and spiritual communities called churches. Get the spirit of the heavenly city into your church, and its splendid outlines, its beautiful light, will soon appear to the world.

The bombardment of Samoa by our Admiral Kautz may give us serious trouble with Germany. There was a tripartite agreement between Germany, England and the United States for the government of the islands, but the German representative ignored the terms and obligations of this agreement, and brought on war among the natives. Two rival native kings contend for the throne, and blood has flowed copiously. It is the same old world story in miniature—a paradise, the devil, and a lot of his dupes.

The reputed wisdom of the brainless owl consists in looking wise and saying nothing; which shows how much can be accomplished by a discreet use of a very small capital.

A rumored case of leprosy caused a panic at Bellevue hospital last week, and visitors left in a hurry. Many of the same people, however, might profit immensely if they would shun with equal fear the moral leper who abounds in the world, the unclean man, the filthy jester, the corrupter of youth. Hogs are angels by the side of these unspeakable creatures.

The Eophone is a new device to locate the direction of sound. It is thought to be especially valuable to navigators, who on account of the fogs which often cover the sea are unable to observe the approach of other vessels. A spiritual Eophone would not be a bad idea. Sometimes we hear a sound in a fog, and are unable to tell where it comes from or what it means.

Thirteen men are on trial in Charlotte, N. C., for the brutal lynching of a postmaster and his family. The crime was one of the most atrocious which ever occurred in the country, and it is to be hoped, yet with but slight prospect of realization, that the murderers shall be brought to justice. A few salutary hangings might have a beneficial effect on the lynching epidemic.

A race with death describes the effort of a very wealthy man who, stricken with paralysis in the west, endeavored to reach his eastern home. Swiftly whirled the luxurious palace car over the broad prairies, but Death ran swifter, and claimed his victim on the way. One needs a fast schedule to beat Death.

Dutch statesmen at the Hague, where the Peace Congress is to be held, are of opinion that it will be a farce so far as the big powers are concerned, but that the smaller powers will probably reach an agreement to arbitrate their differences. Under all circumstances the interests of the smaller powers are in the direction of peace, as in war some pretext is usually found by the strong nations to absorb their weaker neighbors. The little fellow fares badly in the near neighborhood of a great commotion. Writing on the subject of this Peace Congress, the celebrated Count Tolstoi of Russia sets forth the principle that the only possible way to disband the armies and get rid of militarism is for individuals to refuse to serve as soldiers.

At the funeral of six victims of a fatal fire in New York, in the residence of a wealthy family, the services were conducted by Prof. Felix Adler of the Society For Ethical Culture. In reading it we wondered what comfort there was in the Society For Ethical Culture as a substitute for religion, or what solution it offered for such human problems as this awful fire suggests. The only solution for the mysterious and perplexing problems of time is an eternity in which we will find God, revealing a love, a compensation, a redemption, which will unravel all mysteries, satisfy all longings, wipe away all tears. But these are the things which the highly ethical substitutes for religion deny, and about all the consolation they can offer when death comes is to say: he ate well, he drank well, he slept well. Of all the creeds, that of the materialist is the most inadequate.

A gang of safe burglars met with a warm reception in a Virginia town a few days since. The merchant had stored a half dozen sticks of dynamite in his safe, and when the burglars touched off the powder which they had drilled into the door, the concussion exploded the dynamite, to the serious damage and utter consternation of the astonished burglars. Now it is proposed to put an end to this kind of robbery by simply keeping a few sticks of dynamite in a drawer in each safe. As soon as burglars find that this plan has been generally adopted, they will discontinue their profession. Extreme physical peril as a deterrent from crime appears to be more effective than spiritual peril, although the latter should be much more dreaded.